

Message Text

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71

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 SSO-00 EUR-12 /049 W

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O 290905Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4960

AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 1098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE BOAT CASES: AL-NAJDI CARRYING REFUGEE FAMILY
OF NGUYEN LAI

REF: STATE 212392

1. AL-NAJDI ARRIVED RAS TANURA EVENING OF AUGUST 28 AND WAS VISITED BY CONGENOFF AT DAWN AUG. 29AS SHIP IS CARRYING 19 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. CAPTAIN HAS TELEX FROM SHIP'S OWNERS INDICATING THAT CANADA WILLING TO TAKE THIRTEEN OF THESE REFUGEES, BUT HAS NO DETAILS OF HOW THEY ARE TO GO TO CANADA OR WHERE THEY ARE TO BE DOCUMENTED. NONE OF THE REFUGEES HAVE ANY TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. IN INTERVIEW, MOTHER IN NGUYEN LAI FAMILY OF SIX TOLD CONGENOFF THAT UPE IS SISTER OF THREE MENTIONED IN REFTEL. MOTHER AND ELDEST DAUGHTER HAVE IDENTITY CARDS MADE OUT BY FORMER VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. FAMILY DOES NOT WISH TO SETTLE IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND FAMILY WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE CLAIM TO THIRD PRIORITY PAROLE STATUS TO U.S. ON BASIS OF MOTHER'S RELATIONSHIP TO THREE IN U.S. ONLY OTHER CONNECTION TO US IS FACT THAT FATHER OF FAMILY WORKED FOR VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN LIBRARY FOR UNSPECIFIED PERIOD IN 1965.

2. FOR DEPARTMENT: URGENTLY REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON LIKELY USG ATTITUDE TOWARD SIX VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WITH CLAIM TO THIRD UNCLASSIFIED

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PRIORITY PAROLE STATUS WHO ABOARD SAUDI FLAG SHIP IN SAUDI PORT.

FYI: IN SIMILAR CASE LAST YEAR SAG REFUSED TO PERMIT REFUGEES TO EVEN

COME ASHORE UNLESS USG GUARANTEED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM. WE
FEAR THAT SAG RESPONSE WILL BE SIMILAR IN THIS SITUATION. SHIP'S
CAPTAIN BECOMING RATHER IRRATIONAL AND IS TALKING OF PUTTING REFUGEES
BACK OVERBOARD IN THE GULF IN BOAT IN WHICH HE FOUND THEM. CAPTAIN
STATES HE HAS HAD THE 19 VIETNAMESE ONBOARD FOR 15 DAYS, HAS NOT
RECEIVED USEFUL GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT OR ANYONE ELSE DURING
THAT TIME, CAN NOT LEGALLY CARRY THAT NUMBER, AND DOES NOT HAVE
FOOD OR SPACE TO DO SO. SHIP IS SCHEDULED TO SAIL AT 1500 LOCAL TIME
(0800 WASHINGTON) TODAY, AUGUST 29, FOR DAS ISLAND WITH POSSIBLE
ONWARD VOYAGE TO GENOA.

3. FOR JIDDA: REQUEST THE EMBASSY TELEPHONE SHIP'S OWNERS,
REDEC COMPANY, AND DETERMINE STATUS OF THAT COMPANY'S EFFORTS
TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FM SAG FOR REFUGEES TO LAND. REQUEST EMBASSY
TELEPHONE CANADIAN EMBASSY TO DETERMINE HOW REFUGEES BOUND FOR CANADA
WILL BE DOCUMENTED AND STATUS CANADIAN EFFORTS TO PERMIT THEIR
DISEMBARKATION HERE.
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